

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 273

2 INTRODUCED BY D. SKEES

3  
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REPEALING THE LAWS AUTHORIZING THE PEOPLE OF THE  
5 STATE OF MONTANA THROUGH STATEWIDE VOTE TO APPROVE OR REJECT A PROPOSED NUCLEAR  
6 POWER FACILITY CERTIFIED UNDER THE MONTANA MAJOR FACILITY SITING ACT; AMENDING  
7 SECTIONS 75-1-207, 75-2-103, 75-5-103, 75-20-104, AND 75-20-201, MCA; REPEALING SECTIONS 75-20-  
8 1201, 75-20-1202, 75-20-1203, 75-20-1204, AND 75-20-1205, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE  
9 EFFECTIVE DATE."

10  
11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12  
13 **Section 1.** Section 75-1-207, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"75-1-207. Major facility siting applications excepted.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a  
15 fee as prescribed by this part may not be assessed against any person, corporation, partnership, firm,  
16 association, or other private entity filing an application for a certificate under the provisions of the Montana  
17 Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, chapter 20.

18 (2) The department of environmental quality may require payment of costs under 75-1-205(1)(a) by a  
19 person who files a petition under ~~75-20-201(5)~~ 75-20-201(4)."

20  
21 **Section 2.** Section 75-2-103, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"75-2-103. Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions  
23 apply:

24 (1) "Air contaminant" means dust, fumes, mist, smoke, other particulate matter, vapor, gas, odorous  
25 substances, or any combination of those air contaminants.

26 (2) "Air pollutants" means one or more air contaminants that are present in the outdoor atmosphere,  
27 including those pollutants regulated pursuant to section 7412 and Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act, 42  
28 U.S.C. 7401, et seq.

1 (3) "Air pollution" means the presence of air pollutants in a quantity and for a duration that are or tend  
 2 to be injurious to human health or welfare, animal or plant life, or property or that would unreasonably interfere  
 3 with the enjoyment of life, property, or the conduct of business.

4 (4) "Associated supporting infrastructure" means:

5 (a) electric transmission and distribution facilities;

6 (b) pipeline facilities;

7 (c) aboveground ponds and reservoirs and underground storage reservoirs;

8 (d) rail transportation;

9 (e) aqueducts and diversion dams;

10 (f) devices or equipment associated with the delivery of an energy form or product produced at an  
 11 energy development project; or

12 (g) other supporting infrastructure, as defined by board rule, that is necessary for an energy  
 13 development project.

14 (5) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

15 (6) (a) "Commercial hazardous waste incinerator" means:

16 (i) an incinerator that burns hazardous waste; or

17 (ii) a boiler or industrial furnace subject to the provisions of 75-10-406.

18 (b) Commercial hazardous waste incinerator does not include a research and development facility  
 19 that receives federal or state research funds and that burns hazardous waste primarily to test and evaluate  
 20 waste treatment remediation technologies.

21 (7) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

22 (8) "Emission" means a release into the outdoor atmosphere of air contaminants.

23 (9) ~~(a)~~ "Energy development project" means each plant, unit, or other development and associated  
 24 developments, including any associated supporting infrastructure, designed for or capable of:

25 ~~(i)~~(a) generating electricity;

26 ~~(ii)~~(b) producing gas derived from coal;

27 ~~(iii)~~(c) producing liquid hydrocarbon products;

28 ~~(iv)~~(d) refining crude oil or natural gas;

1           ~~(v)(e)~~ producing alcohol to be blended for ethanol-blended gasoline and that are eligible for a tax  
2 incentive pursuant to Title 15, chapter 70, part 5;

3           ~~(vi)(f)~~ producing biodiesel and that are eligible for a tax incentive for the production of biodiesel  
4 pursuant to 15-32-701; or

5           ~~(vii)(g)~~ transmitting electricity through an electric transmission line with a design capacity of equal to or  
6 greater than 50 kilovolts.

7           ~~(b) The term does not include a nuclear facility as defined in 75-20-1202.~~

8           (10) "Environmental protection law" means a law contained in or an administrative rule adopted  
9 pursuant to Title 75, chapter 2, 5, 10, or 11.

10           (11) "Hazardous waste" means:

11           (a) a substance defined as hazardous under 75-10-403 or defined as hazardous in department  
12 administrative rules adopted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 10, part 4; or

13           (b) a waste containing 2 parts or more per million of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB).

14           (12) (a) "Incinerator" means any single- or multiple-chambered combustion device that burns  
15 combustible material, alone or with a supplemental fuel or with catalytic combustion assistance, primarily for the  
16 purpose of removal, destruction, disposal, or volume reduction of any portion of the input material.

17           (b) Incinerator does not include:

18           (i) safety flares used to combust or dispose of hazardous or toxic gases at industrial facilities, such as  
19 refineries, gas sweetening plants, oil and gas wells, sulfur recovery plants, or elemental phosphorus plants;

20           (ii) space heaters that burn used oil;

21           (iii) wood-fired boilers; or

22           (iv) wood waste burners, such as tepee, wigwam, truncated cone, or silo burners.

23           (13) "Medical waste" means any waste that is generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization  
24 of human beings or animals, in medical research on humans or animals, or in the production or testing of  
25 biologicals. The term includes:

26           (a) cultures and stocks of infectious agents;

27           (b) human pathological wastes;

28           (c) waste human blood or products of human blood;

1 (d) sharps;

2 (e) contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding that were known to have been exposed  
3 to infectious agents during research;

4 (f) laboratory wastes and wastes from autopsy or surgery that were in contact with infectious agents;  
5 and

6 (g) biological waste and discarded material contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates, or  
7 secretions from humans or animals.

8 (14) (a) "Oil or gas well facility" means a well that produces oil or natural gas. The term includes:

9 (i) equipment associated with the well and used for the purpose of producing, treating, separating, or  
10 storing oil, natural gas, or other liquids produced by the well; and

11 (ii) a group of wells under common ownership or control that produce oil or natural gas and that share  
12 common equipment used for the purpose of producing, treating, separating, or storing oil, natural gas, or other  
13 liquids produced by the wells.

14 (b) The equipment referred to in subsection (14)(a) includes but is not limited to wellhead assemblies,  
15 amine units, prime mover engines, phase separators, heater treater units, dehydrator units, tanks, and  
16 connecting tubing.

17 (c) The term does not include equipment such as compressor engines used for transmission of oil or  
18 natural gas.

19 (15) "Person" means an individual, a partnership, a firm, an association, a municipality, a public or  
20 private corporation, the state or a subdivision or agency of the state, a trust, an estate, an interstate body, the  
21 federal government or an agency of the federal government, or any other legal entity and includes persons  
22 resident in Canada.

23 (16) "Principal" means a principal of a corporation, including but not limited to a partner, associate,  
24 officer, parent corporation, or subsidiary corporation.

25 (17) "Small business stationary source" means a stationary source that:

26 (a) is owned or operated by a person who employs 100 or fewer individuals;

27 (b) is a small business concern as defined in the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 631, et seq.;

28 (c) is not a major stationary source as defined in Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C.

1 7661, et seq.;

2 (d) emits less than 50 tons per year of an air pollutant;

3 (e) emits less than a total of 75 tons per year of all air pollutants combined; and

4 (f) is not excluded from this definition under 75-2-108(3).

5 (18) (a) "Solid waste" means all putrescible and nonputrescible solid, semisolid, liquid, or gaseous  
6 wastes, including but not limited to garbage; rubbish; refuse; ashes; swill; food wastes; commercial or industrial  
7 wastes; medical waste; sludge from sewage treatment plants, water supply treatment plants, or air pollution  
8 control facilities; construction, demolition, or salvage wastes; dead animals, dead animal parts, offal, animal  
9 droppings, or litter; discarded home and industrial appliances; automobile bodies, tires, interiors, or parts  
10 thereof; wood products or wood byproducts and inert materials; styrofoam and other plastics; rubber materials;  
11 asphalt shingles; tarpaper; electrical equipment, transformers, or insulated wire; oil or petroleum products or oil  
12 or petroleum products and inert materials; treated lumber and timbers; and pathogenic or infectious waste.

13 (b) Solid waste does not include municipal sewage, industrial wastewater effluents, mining wastes  
14 regulated under the mining and reclamation laws administered by the department of environmental quality, or  
15 slash and forest debris regulated under laws administered by the department of natural resources and  
16 conservation."  
17

18 **Section 3.** Section 75-5-103, MCA, is amended to read:

19 **"75-5-103. (Temporary) Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the  
20 following definitions apply:

21 (1) "Associated supporting infrastructure" means:

22 (a) electric transmission and distribution facilities;

23 (b) pipeline facilities;

24 (c) aboveground ponds and reservoirs and underground storage reservoirs;

25 (d) rail transportation;

26 (e) aqueducts and diversion dams;

27 (f) devices or equipment associated with the delivery of an energy form or product produced at an  
28 energy development project; or

1 (g) other supporting infrastructure, as defined by board rule, that is necessary for an energy  
2 development project.

3 (2) (a) "Base numeric nutrient standards" means numeric water quality criteria for nutrients in surface  
4 water that are adopted to protect the designated uses of a surface water body.

5 (b) The term does not include numeric water quality standards for nitrate, nitrate plus nitrite, or nitrite  
6 that are adopted to protect human health.

7 (3) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

8 (4) "Contamination" means impairment of the quality of state waters by sewage, industrial wastes, or  
9 other wastes, creating a hazard to human health.

10 (5) "Council" means the water pollution control advisory council provided for in 2-15-2107.

11 (6) (a) "Currently available data" means data that is readily available to the department at the time a  
12 decision is made, including information supporting its previous lists of water bodies that are threatened or  
13 impaired.

14 (b) The term does not mean new data to be obtained as a result of department efforts.

15 (7) "Degradation" means a change in water quality that lowers the quality of high-quality waters for a  
16 parameter. The term does not include those changes in water quality determined to be nonsignificant pursuant  
17 to 75-5-301(5)(c).

18 (8) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

19 (9) "Disposal system" means a system for disposing of sewage, industrial, or other wastes and  
20 includes sewage systems and treatment works.

21 (10) "Effluent standard" means a restriction or prohibition on quantities, rates, and concentrations of  
22 chemical, physical, biological, and other constituents that are discharged into state waters.

23 (11) ~~(a)~~ "Energy development project" means each plant, unit, or other development and associated  
24 developments, including any associated supporting infrastructure, designed for or capable of:

25 ~~(i)~~(a) generating electricity;

26 ~~(ii)~~(b) producing gas derived from coal;

27 ~~(iii)~~(c) producing liquid hydrocarbon products;

28 ~~(iv)~~(d) refining crude oil or natural gas;

1           ~~(v)(e)~~ producing alcohol to be blended for ethanol-blended gasoline and that are eligible for a tax  
2 incentive pursuant to Title 15, chapter 70, part 5;

3           ~~(vi)(f)~~ producing biodiesel and that are eligible for a tax incentive for the production of biodiesel  
4 pursuant to 15-32-701; or

5           ~~(vii)(g)~~ transmitting electricity through an electric transmission line with a design capacity of equal to or  
6 greater than 50 kilovolts.

7           ~~(b) The term does not include a nuclear facility as defined in 75-20-1202.~~

8           (12) "Existing uses" means those uses actually attained in state waters on or after July 1, 1971,  
9 whether or not those uses are included in the water quality standards.

10           (13) "High-quality waters" means all state waters, except:

11           (a) ground water classified as of January 1, 1995, within the "III" or "IV" classifications established by  
12 the board's classification rules; and

13           (b) surface waters that:

14           (i) are not capable of supporting any one of the designated uses for their classification; or

15           (ii) have zero flow or surface expression for more than 270 days during most years.

16           (14) "Impaired water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient credible data  
17 shows that the water body or stream segment is failing to achieve compliance with applicable water quality  
18 standards.

19           (15) "Industrial waste" means a waste substance from the process of business or industry or from the  
20 development of any natural resource, together with any sewage that may be present.

21           (16) "Interested person" means a person who has a real property interest, a water right, or an  
22 economic interest that is or may be directly and adversely affected by the department's preliminary decision  
23 regarding degradation of state waters, pursuant to 75-5-303. The term includes a person who has requested  
24 authorization to degrade high-quality waters.

25           (17) "Load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is allocated to one  
26 of its existing or future nonpoint sources or to natural background sources.

27           (18) "Loading capacity" means the mass of a pollutant that a water body can assimilate without a  
28 violation of water quality standards. For pollutants that cannot be measured in terms of mass, it means the

1 maximum change that can occur from the best practicable condition in a surface water without causing a  
2 violation of the surface water quality standards.

3 (19) "Local department of health" means the staff, including health officers, employed by a county, city,  
4 city-county, or district board of health.

5 (20) "Metal parameters" includes but is not limited to aluminum, antimony, arsenic, beryllium, barium,  
6 cadmium, chromium, copper, fluoride, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, and  
7 zinc.

8 (21) "Mixing zone" means an area established in a permit or final decision on nondegradation issued  
9 by the department where water quality standards may be exceeded, subject to conditions that are imposed by  
10 the department and that are consistent with the rules adopted by the board.

11 (22) "Nutrient standards variance" means numeric water quality criteria for nutrients based on a  
12 determination that base numeric nutrient standards cannot be achieved because of economic impacts or  
13 because of the limits of technology. The term includes individual, general, and alternative nutrient standards  
14 variances in accordance with 75-5-313.

15 (23) "Nutrient work group" means an advisory work group, convened by the department, representing  
16 publicly owned and privately owned point sources of pollution, nonpoint sources of pollution, and other  
17 interested parties that will advise the department on the base numeric nutrient standards, the development of  
18 nutrient standards variances, and the implementation of those standards and variances together with  
19 associated economic impacts.

20 (24) "Other wastes" means garbage, municipal refuse, decayed wood, sawdust, shavings, bark, lime,  
21 sand, ashes, offal, night soil, oil, grease, tar, heat, chemicals, dead animals, sediment, wrecked or discarded  
22 equipment, radioactive materials, solid waste, and all other substances that may pollute state waters.

23 (25) "Outstanding resource waters" means:

24 (a) state surface waters located wholly within the boundaries of areas designated as national parks or  
25 national wilderness areas as of October 1, 1995; or

26 (b) other surface waters or ground waters classified by the board under the provisions of 75-5-316  
27 and approved by the legislature.

28 (26) "Owner or operator" means a person who owns, leases, operates, controls, or supervises a point

1 source.

2 (27) "Parameter" means a physical, biological, or chemical property of state water when a value of that  
3 property affects the quality of the state water.

4 (28) "Person" means the state, a political subdivision of the state, institution, firm, corporation,  
5 partnership, individual, or other entity and includes persons resident in Canada.

6 (29) "Point source" means a discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited  
7 to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, or vessel or other  
8 floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

9 (30) (a) "Pollution" means:

10 (i) contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of state waters  
11 that exceeds that permitted by Montana water quality standards, including but not limited to standards relating  
12 to change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor; or

13 (ii) the discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow of liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive, or other  
14 substance into state water that will or is likely to create a nuisance or render the waters harmful, detrimental, or  
15 injurious to public health, recreation, safety, or welfare, to livestock, or to wild animals, birds, fish, or other  
16 wildlife.

17 (b) The term does not include:

18 (i) a discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow that is authorized under the pollution discharge  
19 permit rules adopted by the board under this chapter;

20 (ii) activities conducted under this chapter that comply with the conditions imposed by the department  
21 in short-term authorizations pursuant to 75-5-308;

22 (iii) contamination of ground water within the boundaries of an underground mine using in situ coal  
23 gasification and operating in accordance with a permit issued under 82-4-221.

24 (c) Contamination referred to in subsection (30)(b)(iii) does not require a mixing zone.

25 (31) "Sewage" means water-carried waste products from residences, public buildings, institutions, or  
26 other buildings, including discharge from human beings or animals, together with ground water infiltration and  
27 surface water present.

28 (32) "Sewage system" means a device for collecting or conducting sewage, industrial wastes, or other

1 wastes to an ultimate disposal point.

2 (33) "Standard of performance" means a standard adopted by the board for the control of the  
3 discharge of pollutants that reflects the greatest degree of effluent reduction achievable through application of  
4 the best available demonstrated control technology, processes, operating methods, or other alternatives,  
5 including, when practicable, a standard permitting no discharge of pollutants.

6 (34) (a) "State waters" means a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either surface or  
7 underground.

8 (b) The term does not apply to:

9 (i) ponds or lagoons used solely for treating, transporting, or impounding pollutants; or

10 (ii) irrigation waters or land application disposal waters when the waters are used up within the  
11 irrigation or land application disposal system and the waters are not returned to state waters.

12 (35) "Sufficient credible data" means chemical, physical, or biological monitoring data, alone or in  
13 combination with narrative information, that supports a finding as to whether a water body is achieving  
14 compliance with applicable water quality standards.

15 (36) "Threatened water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient credible data  
16 and calculated increases in loads show that the water body or stream segment is fully supporting its designated  
17 uses but threatened for a particular designated use because of:

18 (a) proposed sources that are not subject to pollution prevention or control actions required by a  
19 discharge permit, the nondegradation provisions, or reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices; or

20 (b) documented adverse pollution trends.

21 (37) "Total maximum daily load" or "TMDL" means the sum of the individual waste load allocations for  
22 point sources and load allocations for both nonpoint sources and natural background sources established at a  
23 level necessary to achieve compliance with applicable surface water quality standards.

24 (38) "Treatment works" means works, including sewage lagoons, installed for treating or holding  
25 sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes.

26 (39) "Waste load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is allocated  
27 to one of its existing or future point sources.

28 (40) "Water quality protection practices" means those activities, prohibitions, maintenance procedures,

1 or other management practices applied to point and nonpoint sources designed to protect, maintain, and  
2 improve the quality of state waters. Water quality protection practices include but are not limited to treatment  
3 requirements, standards of performance, effluent standards, and operating procedures and practices to control  
4 site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from material storage.

5 (41) "Water well" means an excavation that is drilled, cored, bored, washed, driven, dug, jetted, or  
6 otherwise constructed and intended for the location, diversion, artificial recharge, or acquisition of ground water.

7 (42) "Watershed advisory group" means a group of individuals who wish to participate in an advisory  
8 capacity in revising and reprioritizing the list of water bodies developed under 75-5-702 and in the development  
9 of TMDLs under 75-5-703, including those groups or individuals requested by the department to participate in  
10 an advisory capacity as provided in 75-5-704.

11 **75-5-103. (Effective on occurrence of contingency) Definitions.** Unless the context requires  
12 otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

13 (1) "Associated supporting infrastructure" means:

14 (a) electric transmission and distribution facilities;

15 (b) pipeline facilities;

16 (c) aboveground ponds and reservoirs and underground storage reservoirs;

17 (d) rail transportation;

18 (e) aqueducts and diversion dams;

19 (f) devices or equipment associated with the delivery of an energy form or product produced at an  
20 energy development project; or

21 (g) other supporting infrastructure, as defined by board rule, that is necessary for an energy  
22 development project.

23 (2) (a) "Base numeric nutrient standards" means numeric water quality criteria for nutrients in surface  
24 water that are adopted to protect the designated uses of a surface water body.

25 (b) The term does not include numeric water quality standards for nitrate, nitrate plus nitrite, or nitrite  
26 that are adopted to protect human health.

27 (3) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

28 (4) "Contamination" means impairment of the quality of state waters by sewage, industrial wastes, or

1 other wastes, creating a hazard to human health.

2 (5) "Council" means the water pollution control advisory council provided for in 2-15-2107.

3 (6) (a) "Currently available data" means data that is readily available to the department at the time a  
4 decision is made, including information supporting its previous lists of water bodies that are threatened or  
5 impaired.

6 (b) The term does not mean new data to be obtained as a result of department efforts.

7 (7) "Degradation" means a change in water quality that lowers the quality of high-quality waters for a  
8 parameter. The term does not include those changes in water quality determined to be nonsignificant pursuant  
9 to 75-5-301(5)(c).

10 (8) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

11 (9) "Disposal system" means a system for disposing of sewage, industrial, or other wastes and  
12 includes sewage systems and treatment works.

13 (10) "Effluent standard" means a restriction or prohibition on quantities, rates, and concentrations of  
14 chemical, physical, biological, and other constituents that are discharged into state waters.

15 (11) ~~(a)~~ "Energy development project" means each plant, unit, or other development and associated  
16 developments, including any associated supporting infrastructure, designed for or capable of:

17 ~~(i)~~(a) generating electricity;

18 ~~(ii)~~(b) producing gas derived from coal;

19 ~~(iii)~~(c) producing liquid hydrocarbon products;

20 ~~(iv)~~(d) refining crude oil or natural gas;

21 ~~(v)~~(e) producing alcohol to be blended for ethanol-blended gasoline and that are eligible for a tax  
22 incentive pursuant to Title 15, chapter 70, part 5;

23 ~~(vi)~~(f) producing biodiesel and that are eligible for a tax incentive for the production of biodiesel  
24 pursuant to 15-32-701; or

25 ~~(vii)~~(g) transmitting electricity through an electric transmission line with a design capacity of equal to or  
26 greater than 50 kilovolts.

27 ~~(b) The term does not include a nuclear facility as defined in 75-20-1202.~~

28 (12) "Existing uses" means those uses actually attained in state waters on or after July 1, 1971,

1 whether or not those uses are included in the water quality standards.

2 (13) "High-quality waters" means all state waters, except:

3 (a) ground water classified as of January 1, 1995, within the "III" or "IV" classifications established by  
4 the board's classification rules; and

5 (b) surface waters that:

6 (i) are not capable of supporting any one of the designated uses for their classification; or

7 (ii) have zero flow or surface expression for more than 270 days during most years.

8 (14) "Impaired water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient credible data  
9 shows that the water body or stream segment is failing to achieve compliance with applicable water quality  
10 standards.

11 (15) "Industrial waste" means a waste substance from the process of business or industry or from the  
12 development of any natural resource, together with any sewage that may be present.

13 (16) "Interested person" means a person who has a real property interest, a water right, or an  
14 economic interest that is or may be directly and adversely affected by the department's preliminary decision  
15 regarding degradation of state waters, pursuant to 75-5-303. The term includes a person who has requested  
16 authorization to degrade high-quality waters.

17 (17) "Load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is allocated to one  
18 of its existing or future nonpoint sources or to natural background sources.

19 (18) "Loading capacity" means the mass of a pollutant that a water body can assimilate without a  
20 violation of water quality standards. For pollutants that cannot be measured in terms of mass, it means the  
21 maximum change that can occur from the best practicable condition in a surface water without causing a  
22 violation of the surface water quality standards.

23 (19) "Local department of health" means the staff, including health officers, employed by a county, city,  
24 city-county, or district board of health.

25 (20) "Metal parameters" includes but is not limited to aluminum, antimony, arsenic, beryllium, barium,  
26 cadmium, chromium, copper, fluoride, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, and  
27 zinc.

28 (21) "Mixing zone" means an area established in a permit or final decision on nondegradation issued

1 by the department where water quality standards may be exceeded, subject to conditions that are imposed by  
2 the department and that are consistent with the rules adopted by the board.

3 (22) "Nutrient standards variance" means numeric water quality criteria for nutrients based on a  
4 determination that base numeric nutrient standards cannot be achieved because of economic impacts or  
5 because of the limits of technology. The term includes individual, general, and alternative nutrient standards  
6 variances in accordance with 75-5-313.

7 (23) "Nutrient work group" means an advisory work group, convened by the department, representing  
8 publicly owned and privately owned point sources of pollution, nonpoint sources of pollution, and other  
9 interested parties that will advise the department on the base numeric nutrient standards, the development of  
10 nutrient standards variances, and the implementation of those standards and variances together with  
11 associated economic impacts.

12 (24) "Other wastes" means garbage, municipal refuse, decayed wood, sawdust, shavings, bark, lime,  
13 sand, ashes, offal, night soil, oil, grease, tar, heat, chemicals, dead animals, sediment, wrecked or discarded  
14 equipment, radioactive materials, solid waste, and all other substances that may pollute state waters.

15 (25) "Outstanding resource waters" means:

16 (a) state surface waters located wholly within the boundaries of areas designated as national parks or  
17 national wilderness areas as of October 1, 1995; or

18 (b) other surface waters or ground waters classified by the board under the provisions of 75-5-316  
19 and approved by the legislature.

20 (26) "Owner or operator" means a person who owns, leases, operates, controls, or supervises a point  
21 source.

22 (27) "Parameter" means a physical, biological, or chemical property of state water when a value of that  
23 property affects the quality of the state water.

24 (28) "Person" means the state, a political subdivision of the state, institution, firm, corporation,  
25 partnership, individual, or other entity and includes persons resident in Canada.

26 (29) "Point source" means a discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited  
27 to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, or vessel or other  
28 floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

1 (30) (a) "Pollution" means:

2 (i) contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of state waters  
3 that exceeds that permitted by Montana water quality standards, including but not limited to standards relating  
4 to change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor; or

5 (ii) the discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow of liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive, or other  
6 substance into state water that will or is likely to create a nuisance or render the waters harmful, detrimental, or  
7 injurious to public health, recreation, safety, or welfare, to livestock, or to wild animals, birds, fish, or other  
8 wildlife.

9 (b) The term does not include:

10 (i) a discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow that is authorized under the pollution discharge  
11 permit rules adopted by the board under this chapter;

12 (ii) activities conducted under this chapter that comply with the conditions imposed by the department  
13 in short-term authorizations pursuant to 75-5-308;

14 (iii) contamination of ground water within the boundaries of a geologic storage reservoir, as defined in  
15 82-11-101, by a carbon dioxide injection well in accordance with a permit issued pursuant to Title 82, chapter  
16 11, part 1;

17 (iv) contamination of ground water within the boundaries of an underground mine using in situ coal  
18 gasification and operating in accordance with a permit issued under 82-4-221;

19 (c) Contamination referred to in subsections (30)(b)(iii) and (30)(b)(iv) does not require a mixing zone.

20 (31) "Sewage" means water-carried waste products from residences, public buildings, institutions, or  
21 other buildings, including discharge from human beings or animals, together with ground water infiltration and  
22 surface water present.

23 (32) "Sewage system" means a device for collecting or conducting sewage, industrial wastes, or other  
24 wastes to an ultimate disposal point.

25 (33) "Standard of performance" means a standard adopted by the board for the control of the  
26 discharge of pollutants that reflects the greatest degree of effluent reduction achievable through application of  
27 the best available demonstrated control technology, processes, operating methods, or other alternatives,  
28 including, when practicable, a standard permitting no discharge of pollutants.

1 (34) (a) "State waters" means a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either surface or  
2 underground.

3 (b) The term does not apply to:

4 (i) ponds or lagoons used solely for treating, transporting, or impounding pollutants; or

5 (ii) irrigation waters or land application disposal waters when the waters are used up within the  
6 irrigation or land application disposal system and the waters are not returned to state waters.

7 (35) "Sufficient credible data" means chemical, physical, or biological monitoring data, alone or in  
8 combination with narrative information, that supports a finding as to whether a water body is achieving  
9 compliance with applicable water quality standards.

10 (36) "Threatened water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient credible data  
11 and calculated increases in loads show that the water body or stream segment is fully supporting its designated  
12 uses but threatened for a particular designated use because of:

13 (a) proposed sources that are not subject to pollution prevention or control actions required by a  
14 discharge permit, the nondegradation provisions, or reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices; or

15 (b) documented adverse pollution trends.

16 (37) "Total maximum daily load" or "TMDL" means the sum of the individual waste load allocations for  
17 point sources and load allocations for both nonpoint sources and natural background sources established at a  
18 level necessary to achieve compliance with applicable surface water quality standards.

19 (38) "Treatment works" means works, including sewage lagoons, installed for treating or holding  
20 sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes.

21 (39) "Waste load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is allocated  
22 to one of its existing or future point sources.

23 (40) "Water quality protection practices" means those activities, prohibitions, maintenance procedures,  
24 or other management practices applied to point and nonpoint sources designed to protect, maintain, and  
25 improve the quality of state waters. Water quality protection practices include but are not limited to treatment  
26 requirements, standards of performance, effluent standards, and operating procedures and practices to control  
27 site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from material storage.

28 (41) "Water well" means an excavation that is drilled, cored, bored, washed, driven, dug, jetted, or

1 otherwise constructed and intended for the location, diversion, artificial recharge, or acquisition of ground water.

2 (42) "Watershed advisory group" means a group of individuals who wish to participate in an advisory  
3 capacity in revising and reprioritizing the list of water bodies developed under 75-5-702 and in the development  
4 of TMDLs under 75-5-703, including those groups or individuals requested by the department to participate in  
5 an advisory capacity as provided in 75-5-704."

6

7 **Section 4.** Section 75-20-104, MCA, is amended to read:

8 **"75-20-104. Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following  
9 definitions apply:

10 (1) "Addition thereto" means the installation of new machinery and equipment that would significantly  
11 change the conditions under which the facility is operated.

12 (2) "Application" means an application for a certificate submitted in accordance with this chapter and  
13 the rules adopted under this chapter.

14 (3) (a) "Associated facilities" includes but is not limited to transportation links of any kind, aqueducts,  
15 diversion dams, pipelines, storage ponds, reservoirs, and any other device or equipment associated with the  
16 delivery of the energy form or product produced by a facility.

17 (b) The term does not include a transmission substation, a switchyard, voltage support, or other  
18 control equipment or a facility or a natural gas or crude oil gathering line 25 inches or less in inside diameter.

19 (4) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

20 (5) "Certificate" means the certificate of compliance issued by the department under this chapter that  
21 is required for the construction or operation of a facility.

22 (6) "Commence to construct" means:

23 (a) any clearing of land, excavation, construction, or other action that would affect the environment of  
24 the site or route of a facility but does not mean changes needed for temporary use of sites or routes for  
25 nonutility purposes or uses in securing geological data, including necessary borings to ascertain foundation  
26 conditions;

27 (b) the fracturing of underground formations by any means if the activity is related to the possible  
28 future development of a gasification facility or a facility employing geothermal resources but does not include

1 the gathering of geological data by boring of test holes or other underground exploration, investigation, or  
2 experimentation;

3 (c) the commencement of eminent domain proceedings under Title 70, chapter 30, for land or rights-  
4 of-way upon or over which a facility may be constructed;

5 (d) the relocation or upgrading of an existing facility defined by subsection (9)(a) or (9)(b), including  
6 upgrading to a design capacity covered by subsection (9)(a), except that the term does not include normal  
7 maintenance or repair of an existing facility.

8 (7) (a) "Commencement of acquisition of right-of-way" means the actual, defined legal transfer of  
9 property.

10 (b) The term does not mean preliminary discussions, option agreements that are not within 60 days of  
11 commencement of acquisition, letters of intent, or other documents that do not conclusively result in the legal  
12 transfer of property.

13 (8) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

14 (9) "Facility" means, ~~subject to 75-20-1202:~~

15 (a) each electric transmission line and associated facilities of a design capacity of more than 69  
16 kilovolts, except that the term:

17 (i) does not include an electric transmission line and associated facilities of a design capacity of 230  
18 kilovolts or less and 10 miles or less in length;

19 (ii) does not include an electric transmission line with a design capacity of more than 69 kilovolts for  
20 which the person planning to construct the line has obtained right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-  
21 way from more than 75% of the owners who collectively own more than 75% of the property along the  
22 centerline;

23 (iii) does not include electric transmission lines that are collectively less than 150 miles in length and  
24 are required under state or federal regulations and laws, with respect to reliability of service, for an electrical  
25 generation facility, as defined in 15-24-3001(4), or a wind generation facility, biomass generation facility, or  
26 energy storage facility, as defined in 15-6-157, to interconnect to a regional transmission grid or secure firm  
27 transmission service to use the grid for which the person planning to construct the line or lines has obtained  
28 right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-way from more than 75% of the owners who collectively own

1 more than 75% of the property along the centerline or centerlines;

2 (iv) does not include an upgrade to an existing transmission line of a design capacity of 50 kilovolts or  
3 more to increase that line's capacity, including construction outside the existing easement or right-of-way.

4 Except for a newly acquired easement or right-of-way necessary to comply with electromagnetic field  
5 standards, a newly acquired easement or right-of-way outside the existing easement or right-of-way as  
6 described in this subsection (9)(a)(iv) may not exceed a total of 10 miles in length or be more than 10% of the  
7 existing transmission right-of-way, whichever is greater, and the purpose of the easement must be to avoid  
8 sensitive areas or inhabited areas or conform to state or federal safety, reliability, and operational standards  
9 designed to safeguard the transmission network and protect electrical workers and the public.

10 (v) does not include a transmission substation, a switchyard, voltage support, or other control  
11 equipment;

12 (vi) does not include an energy storage facility, as defined in 15-6-157;

13 (b) (i) each pipeline, whether partially or wholly within the state, greater than 25 inches in inside  
14 diameter and 50 miles in length, and associated facilities, except that the term does not include:

15 (A) a pipeline within the boundaries of the state that is used exclusively for the irrigation of agricultural  
16 crops or for drinking water; or

17 (B) a pipeline greater than 25 inches in inside diameter and 50 miles in length for which the person  
18 planning to construct the pipeline has obtained right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-way from more  
19 than 75% of the owners who collectively own more than 75% of the property along the centerline;

20 (ii) each pipeline, whether partially or wholly within the state, greater than 17 inches in inside diameter  
21 and 30 miles in length, and associated facilities used to transport coal suspended in water;

22 (c) any use of geothermal resources, including the use of underground space in existence or to be  
23 created, for the creation, use, or conversion of energy, designed for or capable of producing geothermally  
24 derived power equivalent to 50 megawatts or more or any addition thereto, except pollution control facilities  
25 approved by the department and added to an existing plant, except that the term does not include a  
26 compressed air energy storage facility, as defined in 15-6-157; or

27 (d) for the purposes of 75-20-204 only, a plant, unit, or other facility capable of generating 50  
28 megawatts of hydroelectric power or more or any addition thereto.

1 (10) "Person" means any individual, group, firm, partnership, corporation, limited liability company,  
2 cooperative, association, government subdivision, government agency, local government, or other organization  
3 or entity.

4 (11) "Sensitive areas" means government-designated areas that have been recognized for their  
5 importance to Montana's wildlife, wilderness, culture, and historic heritage, including but not limited to national  
6 wildlife refuges, state wildlife management areas, federal areas of critical environmental concern, state parks  
7 and historic sites, designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, designated wild and scenic rivers, or  
8 national parks, monuments, or historic sites.

9 ~~(12) "Transmission substation" means any structure, device, or equipment assemblage, commonly~~  
10 ~~located and designed for voltage regulation, circuit protection, or switching necessary for the construction or~~  
11 ~~operation of a proposed transmission line.~~ "Transmission reliability agencies" means the federal energy  
12 regulatory commission, the western electricity coordinating council, the national electric reliability council, and  
13 the midwest reliability organization.

14 ~~(13) "Transmission reliability agencies" means the federal energy regulatory commission, the western~~  
15 ~~electricity coordinating council, the national electric reliability council, and the midwest reliability organization.~~  
16 "Transmission substation" means any structure, device, or equipment assemblage, commonly located and  
17 designed for voltage regulation, circuit protection, or switching necessary for the construction or operation of a  
18 proposed transmission line.

19 (14) "Upgrade" means to increase the electrical carrying capacity of a transmission line by actions  
20 including but not limited to:

- 21 (a) installing larger conductors;  
22 (b) replacing insulators;  
23 (c) replacing pole or tower structures;  
24 (d) changing structure spacing, design, or guying; or  
25 (e) installing additional circuits.

26 (15) "Utility" means any person engaged in any aspect of the production, storage, sale, delivery, or  
27 furnishing of heat, electricity, gas, hydrocarbon products, or energy in any form for ultimate public use."  
28

1           **Section 5.** Section 75-20-201, MCA, is amended to read:

2           **"75-20-201. Certificate required -- operation in conformance -- certificate for nuclear facility --**

3 **applicability to federal facilities.** (1) Except for a facility under diligent onsite physical construction or in  
4 operation on January 1, 1973, a person may not commence to construct a facility in the state without first  
5 applying for and obtaining a certificate of compliance issued with respect to the facility by the department.

6           (2) A facility with respect to which a certificate is issued may not be constructed, operated, or  
7 maintained except in conformity with the certificate and any terms, conditions, and modifications contained  
8 within the certification.

9           (3) A certificate may only be issued pursuant to this chapter.

10           ~~(4) If the department decides to issue a certificate for a nuclear facility, it shall report the~~  
11 ~~recommendation to the applicant and may not issue the certificate until the recommendation is approved by a~~  
12 ~~majority of the voters in a statewide election called by initiative or referendum according to the laws of this~~  
13 ~~state.~~

14           ~~(5)~~(4) A person that proposes to construct an energy-related project that is not defined as a facility  
15 pursuant to 75-20-104(9) may petition the department to review the energy-related project under the provisions  
16 of this chapter. The construction or installation of an energy storage facility, as defined in 15-6-157, is not  
17 considered an energy-related project under the provisions of this chapter. A certificate for the construction or  
18 installation of an energy storage facility is not required under this chapter.

19           ~~(6)~~(5) This chapter applies, to the fullest extent allowed by federal law, to all federal facilities and to all  
20 facilities over which an agency of the federal government has jurisdiction.

21           ~~(7)~~(6) All judicial challenges of certificates for projects with a project cost, as determined by the court,  
22 of more than \$1 million must have precedence over any civil cause of a different nature pending in that court. If  
23 the court determines that the challenge was without merit or was for an improper purpose, such as to harass, to  
24 cause unnecessary delay, or to impose needless or increased cost in litigation, the court may award attorney  
25 fees and costs incurred in defending the action."  
26

27           NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Repealer.** The following sections of the Montana Code Annotated are  
28 repealed:

1 75-20-1201. Purpose -- findings as to nuclear safety -- reservation of nuclear facility approval powers to the  
2 people.

3 75-20-1202. Definitions.

4 75-20-1203. Additional requirements for issuance of a certificate for the siting of a nuclear facility.

5 75-20-1204. Annual review of evacuation and emergency medical aid plans.

6 75-20-1205. Emergency approval authority invalid for nuclear facilities.

7

8 NEW SECTION. **Section 7. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

9

- END -